COUNTY OF LYCOMING EMA QUARTERLY TRAINING

(Emergency Management Coordinators serving the municipalities of Lycoming County)

The next County of Lycoming EMA Quarterly Training will be held on:

THURSDAY - December 11, 2014 - 7:00 pm

At
LYCOMING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
542 COUNTY FARM ROAD, SUITE 101
MONTOURSVILLE, PA 17754

TOPIC: Protecting Pennsylvania from EBOLA
Presented by Katie Polachek, PA DOH

MEETING TOPIC DETAILS

The topic for the next County EMA Quarterly training will be “What the PA Department of Health is doing to help protect Pennsylvania from EBOLA” presented by Katie Polachek for the PA DOH.

For the past two years Katie has worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Health’s Bureau of Public Health Preparedness as the Public Health Preparedness Coordinator for the Northcentral District. Previously, Katie was employed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health’s Bureau of Community Health Systems for 12 years as a Public Health Educator in the Northeast District. During her service, she was involved with planning and managing multiple Mass Vaccination Clinics during H1N1. Served as the Emergency Support Function #8 - Public Health and Medical Service representative at various Emergency Operation Centers in several counties, and she has developed and implemented educational programs on a variety of topics.
On October 21 & 22, 2014 the Lycoming County Department of Public Safety participated the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES) exercise. Lycoming County is required to hold this exercise every two years to be evaluated federally.

The EOC portion of the exercise was held on October 21st at the County EOC. In the event of an emergency at the Berwick Plant, Lycoming County would be a “Support County”. As a “Support County”, evacuees from the “Risk Counties” would be sent to our area for Monitoring/Decontamination and Sheltering.

The evacuees are first sent to a reception area set up in the parking lot of the Lycoming Mall. During the exercise, Montgomery Emergency Management Agency set up operations to demonstrate the process for providing verbal and written instructions to vehicles with evacuees. Evacuees are given directional maps to proceed to a pre-designated mass care center for monitoring/decontamination and sheltering.

The “MONITORING/DECONTAMINATION STATION” was established at the Montoursville High School in Montoursville. The purpose of this station is to allow evacuees from the Berwick area to be monitored for radiological contamination. If any evacuee has been determined to be contaminated based on federal standards, they are forwarded to the school shower room for proper decontamination by trained personnel. If no contamination is found, evacuees are directed to the mass care center for registration and sheltering by the Red Cross. The County Radiological Team, with assistance from PA Company 6 members, performed the required and very detailed monitoring of each simulated evacuee. Monitoring equipment, including digital hand-held meters and a portal (walk through) monitor, were used.

The “MASS CARE CENTER” was also opened at Montoursville High School, and staffed by our local chapter of the American Red Cross. After evacuee monitoring for radiological contamination, uncontaminated evacuees were directed to the Red Cross registration table to provide information necessary for assignment to the center. Red Cross volunteers arrange for all of the food and sleeping facilities necessary for the evacuees stay.

Also on hand to ensure continuous communications were member of the Lycoming County Auxiliary Communications Service group. These amateur HAM radio operators tested their equipment during the exercise to be sure it would be available if needed during an actual event.

The County did an excellent job once again. The evaluators had no negative comments nor where any deficiencies found. The next exercise will be in the fall of 2016.
Students Among ‘Evacuees’
in County Disaster Simulation
From PCToday, The Penn College News Source

Ten Penn College students – eight from the emergency management technology major and two from the paramedic program – attended this week’s disaster exercise hosted by the Lycoming County Emergency Management Agency. The scenario, held at Montoursville Area High School and featuring involvement by the American Red Cross, was based on a nuclear accident at PPL’s Susquehanna Steam Electric Station near Berwick. Students role-played being evacuees from the zone surrounding the nuclear power plant and underwent simulated radiological testing and monitoring.

Top Left: A mock evacuation site is in full swing in the halls of Montoursville Area High School.

Lower Left: Tommie L. Smith (with clipboard), of Montgomery, an accounting student who works with the Lycoming County Emergency Management Agency, gathers biographical information from Ronald D. Parks, of Jersey Shore, an emergency management technology major simulating contamination with radiation particles. Among others involved in the exercise, in which Parks had to be "decontaminated" before joining the general population in the mass-care shelter, is Charles E. O’Brien Jr. (background), a Penn College Police officer.

Above: Kyle Stavinski, an emergency medical services major from Elysburg, undergoes radiological "screening" during the Lycoming County drill.

Photos provided by David E. Bjorkman, instructor of emergency management technology.
Holiday Decorating Safety

While decorative lights and other electrical decorations add to the splendor of the season, they can increase the risks of fire and electrical injuries if not used safely.

Follow these basic safety guidelines to help prevent serious electrical and fire hazards as you decorate your home and yard this season:

Candles:

- Avoid using candles when possible. Consider using battery-operated candles in place of traditional candles.
- If you choose to light candles, place them away from combustible items, such as decorations and wrapping paper.
- Take care to place candle displays in locations where they cannot be knocked over.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other greenery.
- Never leave an open flame unattended. Keep burning candles within sight.
- Do not leave pets unattended in rooms that contain lit candles or decorations.
- Extinguish all candles before you leave the room, go to bed or leave the house.

Christmas Trees:

- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.
- Because heated rooms dry out live trees rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water.
- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label “Fire Resistant.” This label indicates that the tree is more resistant to burning.
- Don’t use electrical ornaments or light strings on artificial trees with metallic leaves or branch coverings.
- Place your tree at least 3 feet away from all heat sources, including fireplaces, radiators, and space heaters.
- When trimming a tree, only use non-combustible or flame-resistant materials.

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Visit www.holidaysafety.org for more holiday safety resources.
Holiday Decorating Safety

Lights and Electrical Decorations:

- Always purchase electrical decorations and lights from reputable retailers that you trust.
- Before decorating, determine how many outlets are available and where they are located. Plan your displays accordingly.
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can overheat and cause a fire.
- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- Use lights approved for safe use by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- Follow the manufacturer’s use and care instructions that accompany electrical decorations.
- Never connect more than three strands of incandescent lights together.
- Consider purchasing LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights.
- Do not mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord’s insulation.
- Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.
- Turn off and unplug all decorations before leaving the house or going to sleep.

Fast Facts:

- Christmas tree and holiday decoration fires result in twice the injuries and five times more fatalities per fire than the average winter holiday fire.
- 45% of home decoration fires start with candles.
- On average 260 home fires begin with Christmas trees each year, resulting in 12 deaths, 24 injuries, and $16.4 million in property damage.
- Roughly 5,800 people per year are treated in hospital emergency rooms for falls associated with holiday decorations. More than half of these injuries were caused by falls from ladders or roofs.

Visit [www.holidaysafety.org](http://www.holidaysafety.org) for more holiday safety resources.
NATURAL GAS ACTIVITY

The Natural Gas Industry continues to grow in the Central Pennsylvania area. Below are some statistics for Natural Gas Activity within Lycoming County as of November 1, 2014:

- Named Wells—1413
- Addressed Wells—1403
- Permitted Wells—1286
- Spudded Wells—872
- Wells within 1/2 mile interface zone—602
- Compressor/meter/interconnect Stations—46
- Water impoundments and withdraw sites—74
- Active drill rigs—5

13 Operators (Top 3 of addressed well pads)
- 1. Anadarko - 114
- 2. Exco - 53
- 3. Range - 53

31 Municipalities (Top 3 with activity)
- 1. Cummings - 59
- 2. Cogan House - 58
- 3. Penn - 24

Please contact Craig Konkle if you need any additional information concerning Energy Development within Lycoming County.

VACANT EMC POSITIONS

In accordance with Title 35, all municipalities in the Commonwealth must have an Emergency Management Coordinator. Currently, the following municipalities do not.

MCHENY TOWNSHIP

If you or anyone you know would be interested in this position, please contact the Lycoming County EMA office at 570-433-4461.
UPCOMING EMA CLASSES

Classes listed below with an (*) are required for one or more of the certification levels for municipal Emergency Management Coordinators. Attendees must register on-line or through the County EMA office. Contact Kelle Robinson with any questions concerning these classes.

HAZMAT AWARENESS LEVEL ANNUAL REFRESHER  
*Tuesday, December 2, 2014 8:30pm - 10:30pm, Independent Fire Dept, 306 Clark St., S. Williamsport

DYNAMICS OF EMERGENCY VEHICLE RESPONSE  
*Thursday, December 4, 2014 6:30pm - 10:30pm, Independent Fire Dept, 306 Clark St., S. Williamsport

HIGHWAY INCIDENT SCENE SAFETY AND MANAGEMENT (Must attend all 3 classes)  
*Wednesday, January 7, 2015 6:30pm - 10:30pm, Independent Fire Dept. S. Wmspt.  
*Thursday, January 8, 2015 6:30pm - 10:30pm, Independent Fire Dept. S. Wmspt.  
*Sunday, January 11, 2015 8:00 am - 5:00pm, Independent Fire Dept. S. Wmspt.

*NIMS/ICS-300 (Must attend all 4 classes)  
*Tuesday, January 27, 2015 6:00pm -10:00pm, Lyco. Cty. Dept. of Public Safety  
*Thursday, January 29, 2015 6:00pm - 10:00pm, Lyco. Cty. Dept. of Public Safety  
*Saturday, January 31, 2015 8:30am - 4:30pm, Lyco. Cty. Dept. of Public Safety  
*Sunday, February 1, 2015 8:30am - 4:30pm, Lyco. Cty. Dept. of Public Safety

Other Training Resources

PEMA (ON-LINE) TRAINING:  
https://www.centrelearn.com/login_pa.asp

FEMA (EMI) (ON-LINE) TRAINING:  
http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp

PEMA TRAINING CALENDAR:  
http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=50511&mode=2
Notes from the Director…

I thank you all for your untiring efforts and dedication during 2014. Thus far, this year has featured minimal tropical activity. However, numerous thunderstorms, especially in July, and the occasional Tornado Warning continued to remind us of our vulnerability to Mother Nature.

I was also very appreciative of the enthusiasm and professionalism displayed by all who participated in support of the October 2014 SSES exercise. Mission Accomplished!

Some local governments have elected NEW officials such as Supervisors, Mayors, and Council members, now is a great time to introduce yourself and the role of the EMC. DPS is planning to again provide training programs for new (and existing) local official’s early in 2015. Please pass on training information to the newly elected and encourage their participation.

I extend my gratitude to the West Branch Emergency Management Team for the invite to observe the November 2014 winter weather / power outage exercise in Jersey Shore. What was “exercised” in Jersey Shore happened in New York State two weeks later.

Watson Township now has a NEW Emergency Operations Center as a part of their new Township facility!

On a closing note, PLEASE ensure you forward copies of your certification or training certificates to the DPS Office. Many of these programs are available on-line for your convenience. Don’t forget to update YOUR Emergency Operating Plan for your municipality and make sure to keep the County EMA “in the loop”!

THANKS!

John
GETTING TO KNOW OUR EMCs

Welcome to the first edition in the series of “Getting to Know Our EMCs”. Beginning with this edition of the Lycoming County EMA Newsletter, we will be featuring one of our municipal Emergency Management Coordinators with a brief biography. A new EMC will be featured in each newsletter.

This edition’s feature EMC is Mr. Dennis Gruver with Montgomery Borough EMA. Dennis began his life in emergency service in 1955 as a volunteer with the U.S. Air Force Ground Observer Corps. Mr. Gruver then entered the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1969 with a tour of duty in Vietnam. He was appointed as EMC for the borough by Governor Raymond P. Shafer on December 29, 1969.

As well as his roll in EMA, Dennis is involved in many other organizations within his community. He is the A/V Tech for the St. John Lutheran Church and the Post Commander for VFW Post 743 in Montgomery. He is a member of the Montgomery Volunteer Fire Department. Montgomery Fire Police and Montgomery American Legion Post 251. His education includes Montgomery Area High School, Williamsport Tech, Ft. Monmouth Signal School and the NCO Academy. He has obtained all three levels of PEMA Certifications (Basic, Advanced, and Professional) and holds many certifications from the fire service. Mr. Gruver is also a regular face at many of the training courses offered within Lycoming County.

Dennis has lived in Lycoming County his whole life. He and his wife, Nancy have been married for 53 years and have three children, Jodi in Millersburg, Cheryl in New Kingston, and Greg in Montgomery. All 3 of the Gruver children are following in the foot steps of their father by getting involved in emergency services within their communities. Mrs. Gruver is also very involved in emergency services with her husband. Nancy retired from the American Red Cross several years ago after 15 years of service in the Williamsport office.

Mr. Gruver would like to extend thanks to his family for their support, to a supportive borough council, local organizations, local industry, Deputy Coordinator Les Gruver, Deputy Coordinator Gregory Gruver, and the many dedicated volunteers.

Lycoming County EMA would like to thank Mr. Dennis Gruver for his many years of service within the county and his community.
Gov. Tom Corbett has signed into law a first-time-ever state program for small disaster assistance, after the General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a bill authored by Sen. Lisa Baker.

Reacting to the devastation caused by floods, snowstorms, tornadoes and other natural and man-made disasters, Baker, R-Lehman Township, proposed the grant program to help counties and municipalities that become victims of disasters that fall below the $17.5 million threshold for federal aid to kick in.

“Pennsylvania is a flood-prone state, and so frequently, one storm can wipe out a town’s entire annual budget,” Baker said. “This bill will take the burden off local taxpayers, who may already be struggling with personal losses of their own from rising flood waters and other unexpected tragedies.”

The new law, which went into effect immediately after the governor signed it as Act 187 of 2014 on October 27, also grants arrest powers to out-of-state police officers acting in Pennsylvania as part of a mutual aid compact during a governor-declared emergency - a provision deemed necessary as law enforcement continues to search for suspected state trooper killer Eric Frein in Monroe and Pike counties.

“SB 720 will help Pennsylvania communities recover from catastrophe during an emergency, whether at the hands of Mother Nature or extraordinary criminal activity,” Baker said.

She thanked the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors for their advocacy and support.

LYCOMING COUNTY ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

The Lycoming County Department of Public Safety has joined the world of Social Media! You can now find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LycomingCountyDPS and on Twitter: @LycoDPS.

The department will be posting upcoming training/certification information, safety tips, and disaster information on this site. We will continue to send emails out regarding upcoming trainings.

These pages will be beneficial to both the first responders and residents of Lycoming County, so please spread the word!!
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

Just a reminder, this newsletter is written for you, the emergency responder in Lycoming County. If there is something that you wish to see in the newsletter or you have a story that you would like to share, please let us know. We are always looking for ideas for upcoming newsletters!

COUNTY EMA STAFF

Your County EMA staff is proud to serve you, and will always welcome your comments and suggestions to promote a better EMA community. Please contact us at any time.

TELEPHONE: 570-433-4461 (local)
570-329-4061 (local)

EMAIL: ema@lyco.org - for general department email

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LYCOMING COUNTY EMA
WISHES YOU
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!